

THE BULLETIN—VOL 43, NUMBER 7 February 12, 2017

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Jariell Cooper

PM: Jariell Cooper

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*

**WALKING WORTHY ...**

**“Let us not be weary in well doing;  
for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” - Galatians 6:9**

**Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!**

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

**JOIN US IN  
PRACTICING  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY,  
COME SEE!**

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study  
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly  
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study  
Office Phone (803) 794-5320  
*Nursery provided*

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members  
none at present time  
Full time position open

BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher  
Office Phone (803) 796-8858  
E-Mail: [Ed@macro-inc.com](mailto:Ed@macro-inc.com)



WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

## THE CHURCH HAS NO BRANCHES

In this day of loose talk and practice in things religious, it is more necessary than at any previous time to distinctly draw the line between the false and the true. The less people regard the sacredness of truth, the more important it is that we uphold and defend it. The more confused people are regarding the truth, the stronger our efforts should be to clearly define it.

There has perhaps been no time in the world when professed believers in the Bible were more ready to reject its teachings than now. Men deny the words of Jesus regarding the church and reject or pervert the plain commands upon which the world's salvation depends. With apparent willingness, they turn from the truth as easily as one turns his eyes from a disagreeable object.

The situation is not easy to meet, for the exact truth has become unpopular. The true gospel also interferes too seriously with man's wishes. The spirit wars against the flesh, and the flesh against the spirit no less now than in Paul's time. The gospel offers no compromise to the world, and Christians must meet the situation honestly and fairly whether pleasant or not.

Perhaps no Bible teaching is more generally rejected and persistently denied by popular preachers than the unity or oneness of the church. The idea that Christ established only one church and that sinners are saved by coming into that church is especially distasteful to most people. Of course, it is their desire to have it so, rather than any Bible teaching that leads to such contention.

Human relationships — particularly those of the family — and the unwillingness to concede that "our folks" might be lost have much to do with fixing and propagating false doctrine.

It will not do, of course, to say that there is not some kind of union. Hence, the popular solution of the difficulty is to say that denominations are "branch churches", and that all of them make up the "one church" of Christ. It is sufficient refutation of this claim to say that most of those who make it will exclude some denominations from the list, such as Mormons and Jehovahs Witnesses, and contend that they are not branches of the one church. But any unprejudiced mind will know that such exclusions are purely arbitrary.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!**

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org) South Carolina 2/12/2017

## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Richard Ramkinson, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Connie Richbourg** is recovering from cataract [ED: My apologies for not getting this in bulletin last week].
- **Ed Kelleher** is to see a neurologist for his severe back pain, but first needs an MRI with anesthesia, which finally got scheduled for next Wednesday.
- **Tom Atkins** is to have back surgery next week, likely at LMC. **Judy's** sister left last Sunday to return to Texas. **Carolina and Evie Stricklan** are doing better but Evie had to stay home Wednesday night.
- **Remember also: Dorothy Gray** dealing with the many needs of her family; **Tommy White** and leg problems; **Laurin** fighting migraines and more exams; The **Mancuso** family, all fighting/recovering from various ills; Pat Joyner and vertigo; **Karen Harding** off hospice care, but is having blood clots; **Laura Nichols** friend and co-worker **Tammy** with spread of cancer, not much time and not much hope, pray that she desire to hear the word of God and a door be opened to her heart; **Ed Kelleher** with severe back pain; **Jan Kelleher** in a painful fight with metastatic disease.
- Visit **Anna Porter** at National Health Care on US 378. **Pray for all these** and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

**"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him." - Psalm 27:1**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- Remember signup sheet for **college student meals on Wed!** All are invited to stay.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- Invite people to come to the informal Q&A **Bible study**, Saturdays 3pm.

**“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” - Galatians 5:13**

**Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!**  
(Ephesians 4:1)

## **CAROLINA MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**Saturday March 11, 2017, 9:00am-3:00pm, at Rock Hill.** It's an encouraging thing for young and old. Just ask **Tommy White!** Men, let's especially try and encourage our young men to go - with us. **Ed Kelleher** plans on going and has room in his van for 7.

## **THE CHURCH HAS NO BRANCHES** —(Continued from page 1)

One human institution has the same right as another to be counted in as a real branch. The rejection of any breaks the theory to pieces. To accept them all endorses such a mess of contradictions as is wholly indefensible. Moreover, these contradictions — may at least — pertain to things vital to our salvation.

Branches of anything necessarily imply the main thing from which the branches may come. Branch rivers imply a main river. Branches of a tree imply a body or stock. If there be branch churches, then what and where is that main church from which these branches come? Why should one be content to be in a "branch church" instead of the real thing?

The natural branches of the same vine do not produce a half-a-hundred kinds of fruit. Some may produce more fruit than others, but in kind and nature they are the same. If denominations were all branches of the same church, under the same head, and animated by the same spirit, they would produce the same results, and all contain the same kind of people.

If they were all branches of the church of Christ, they would make their converts simply Christians. This is too evident to need argument, and people are without excuse for failing to see it. To miss this point is a compliment to no man's intelligence. But the ordinary religious teacher makes blunders just as radical when he deals with the sacred text.

The beautiful parable of the "vine" and "the branches" (Jn. 15), has been outrageously perverted. The text does not only not say that churches are branches, but says what is utterly inconsistent with that idea. **"I am the vine, ye are the branches"** makes this a personal relationship between Christ and His disciples. "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch," is final in fixing the meaning.

When Jesus uses the pronouns "ye" and "he" in referring to branches, no chance is left to misunderstand. Careless reading is responsible for much false teaching.

In First Corinthians 12:12-23, Paul calls the church the body of Christ and talks about the "members" of that body. The human body is his illustration. All members do not do the same work, but they are in perfect harmony under the same head. This proves that members are individuals — not denominations. As classes, they are divided into apostles, prophets, elders, deacons, evangelists, and those without any of those designations. Together, they make up the body, with Christ as the head. Denominations are out of the question.

In verse 18, Paul says God, set the members in. But God said nothing about denominations. Therefore, denominations are not the members Paul talks about. In verse 25, he says, the members "have the same care" for each other. This is not true of denominations. In verse 23, he says, we bestow more care upon the "weak members". Such is not the case among denominations.

From any viewpoint, the members of the body and the branches of the church are individuals and not denominations. As individuals, we should strive to honor the head of the body and maintain the "unity of the Spirit among ourselves."

**- John T. Hinds**, Gospel preacher, editor Gospel Advocate, died 1938